

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 13, 2006. Claims 20, 21, and 25 are amended. Claims 1-6, 8-38 are pending.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, and 27-38 are allowed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 21 and 23-25 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 12-19 are rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. patent no. 6,683,958 in view of Jensen (US 5,764,763). A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection based on U.S. patent no. 6,683,958. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 22, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jensen (US 5,450,490).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 20 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21.

Claim 25, which the Examiner indicates contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the inclusion of the subject matter of claim 20.

Claim 21 is amended to depend from claim 25.

Applicant respectfully submits that, with the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer and the foregoing claim amendments, the present application is in condition for immediate allowance.

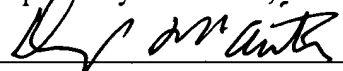
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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